Project Scroll

The Old...

The New...

The Halacha...

The Highlights...

The Bottom Line...

To Order...

Sefer Torahs by Silk Screening
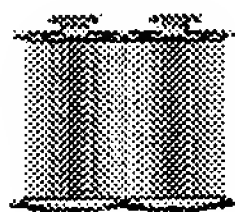
A new process was created to tackle an old problem. The Sofer starts by purchasing some of the highest quality "Klaf" (parchment). The Klaf is checked, tested, and cut to size. The "Sirtut" (engraved lines) is scored to the exact depth, thickness, height, and length. Silk screens are created with the exact lettering. Computers are utilized to achieve a perfectly balanced page using proportionate letters. No need for elongated or squished letters to reach the end of the line. The screens are placed on top of the Klaf in an exact position to meet the Sirtut. The Sofer then puts ink on the screen, and applies the ink by hand passing a squeegee across the Klaf. In a matter of seconds this Klaf has a full page written perfectly. The page is then dried. After the pages are all written, they are sewed properly and the new Torah scroll is ready to use. This is a combination of many patented and patent pending processes.

View Photos Of Rabbi Abadi and Rabbi Tesler writing a megila

View an actual page of the ktav of the megila

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aabadi@kashrut.org

Project Scroll
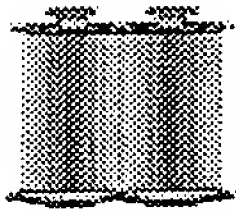
This project is completely under the auspices of Rabbi Yitzchak Abadi, originally of Lakewood, NJ and currently living in Har Nof, Jerusalem, Israel. Rabbi Abadi was the Posek in Lakewood for years and many of his students are Rabbis across the globe. The Rav has thoroughly reviewed every aspect of this process and declared it Kosher for "Mehadrin Min Hamehadrin." The ability to control the perfection of the writing makes it a better choice than conventional Sifrei Torah. Many prominent Rabbis were consulted and were thrilled with the idea. When they were able to view an actual sample they agreed to the high quality and the Kashrut of this type of Sefer Torah. All writing will be done by hand by a prominent Rabbi and Sofer.

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http://www.kashrut.org/scrollproject/

5/2/02

Project Scroll

The Old...

The New...

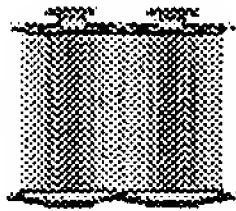The Halacha...

The Highlights...

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We are preparing for the first group of Sifrei Torah and Mezuzot to be written. A Sefer Torah will cost $18,000.00. An initial deposit of $10,000.00 will be required, with the remainder upon completion. The expected start date for this is in January 01, 2002. Our estimated completion date for the first 30 Sifrei Torah will be in November 2002. Many orders have been accepted already, and we hope to be sold out shortly. Our goal is to accommodate the demand and to allow anyone who desires a Sefer Torah, to be capable of purchasing one.

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The Highlights...

The Bottom
Line...

To Order...

E-mail:

Aaron Abadi
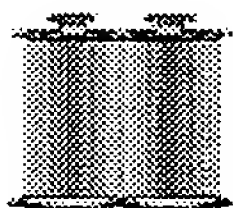or
Rabbi Yosef Tesler

Sefer Torah Project
c/o Cong. Ohel Torah
P.O. Box # 385
Cedarhurst, NY 11516
Phone (516) 569-5211 x 123
Fax (516) 908-3817

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To Order...

Sefer Torahs of the 20th Century
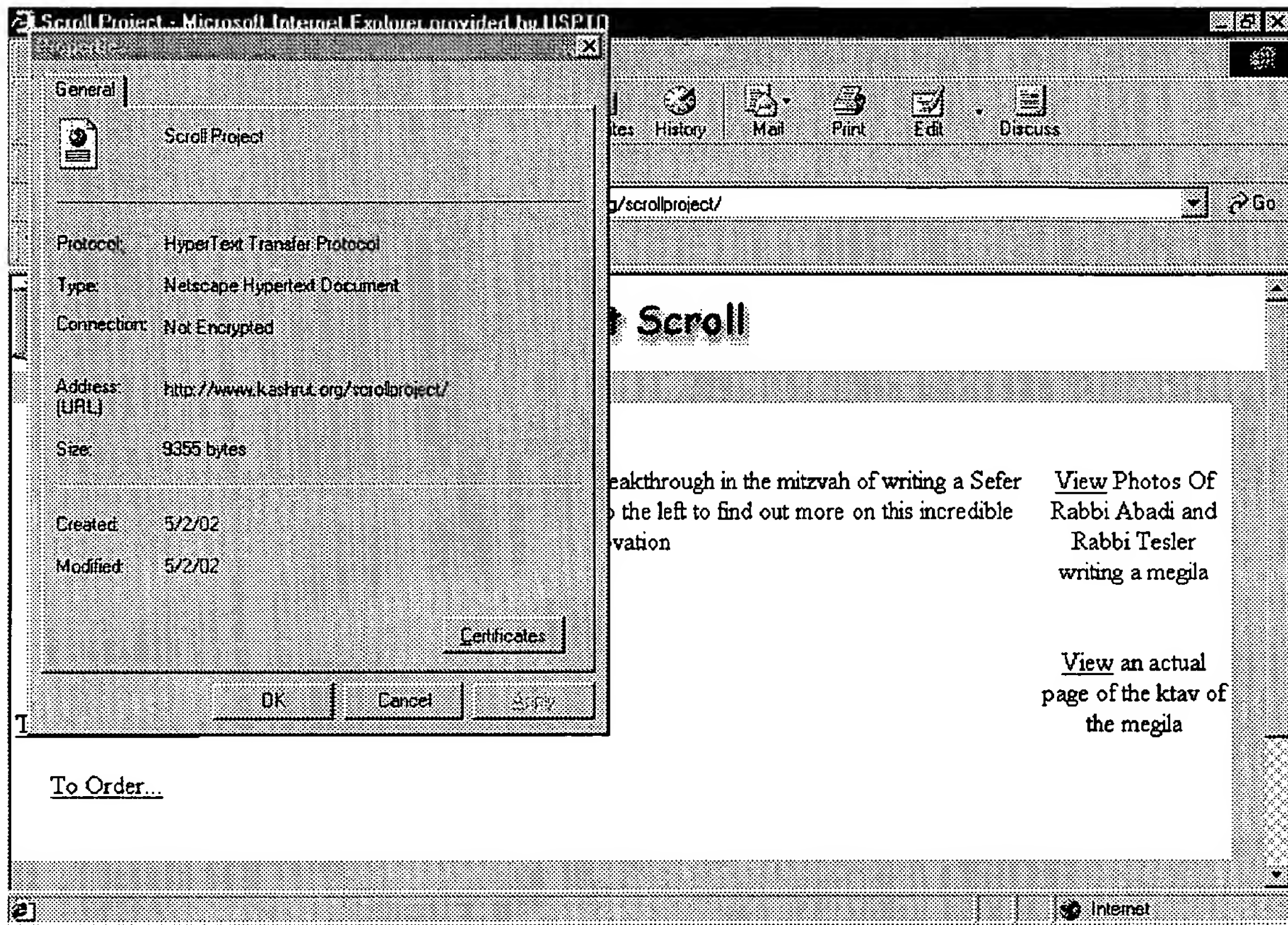
- Until now, when a person or a Shul would look into buying a Sefer Torah, it was a long arduous journey. First, prominent "Soferim" (scribes) would be interviewed, to find just the right person for the job. Each Sofer has a different handwriting, and the purchaser has his own expectations. The process usually takes at least a year, with many complications along the way.
- The Torahs vary in price from about $30,000.00 to over $60,000.00. This is clearly out of the reach of most private people and even many shuls. The one who buys the $30,000 Sefer must be prepared to live with a much lesser quality Sefer than the $60,000 one. Additionally, Teffilen & Mezuzot are also priced very high. The average "Baal Teshuva" has a very difficult time accepting these prices, and it certainly will affect their decision to join the faith.
- Unfortunately, many of our aged Sifrei Torah have brown letters and even missing or cracked letters and words from years of use. All too often, we disrupt our Torah reading due to corrections needed. When the prices are so high, we have no choice but to use any and every Sefer Torah available.
- The Halachah states that every man should write his own Sefer Torah. Until now this commandment was almost impossible to achieve...

<u>View</u> Photos Of Rabbi Abadi and Rabbi Tesler writing a megila

<u>View</u> an actual page of the ktav of the megila

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Scroll

...eakthrough in the mitzvah of writing a Sefer
...the left to find out more on this incredible
...vation

View Photos Of
Rabbi Abadi and
Rabbi Tesler
writing a megila

View an actual
page of the ktav of
the megila

To Order...

History   Mail   Print   Edit   Discuss

/scrollproject/   Go

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Searched for **http://www.kashrut.org/**   **7** Results

* denotes when site was updated.

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1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
0 pages	0 pages	0 pages	0 pages	0 pages	7 pages	0 pages

Mar 02, 2001 *
Apr 01, 2001 *
Apr 02, 2001
Apr 04, 2001
Apr 19, 2001
May 18, 2001
Sep 27, 2001

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Set	Items	Description
S1	1147002	KLAF? OR SCROLL? OR PARCHMENT? OR DOCUMENT? OR SKIN? OR PA-PER? OR SUBSTRATE? OR SHEEPSKIN? OR ANIMAL(2N)SKIN?
S2	6998	TORAH? OR SEFER? OR SIFREI? OR MEGILLAH? OR MEZZUZAH? OR M-EZUZAH? OR MEZUZOT? OR TEFILLIN?
S3	572268	JEWISH OR JUDAISM OR JUDAIC OR JUDAISTIC OR KOSHER OR SACR-ED OR HOLY OR ANCIENT? OR RELIGIOUS?
S4	824116	WRITE OR HANDWRITT? OR WRITTEN? OR WRITTING? OR SCRIBE? OR INSCRIBE? OR LETTER? OR SCRIPTURAL?
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S6	186	S5/TI,DE
S7	149	S6 AND S3
S8	80	S7 AND S4
S9	56	RD (unique items)
S10	2050250	MULTIPLE? OR MANY OR TOGETHER OR UNISON OR SIMULTANEOUS
S11	1601461	S4 OR CHARACTER?
S12	40481	S11 (3N) S10
S13	11	S12 AND S8
S14	131486	S1/DE,TI
S15	141	S14 AND S2
S16	58	S15 AND S4
S17	29444	S10(3N) (LETTER? OR CHARACTER?)
S18	2	S16 AND S17
S19	1332026	AUTOMATE? OR COMPUTER? OR SCANNER? OR SCAN OR SCANNING OR -SCANNED OR IMAGE? OR IMAGING? OR OCR OR OPTICAL?
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S21	24	S19 AND S16
S22	17	RD (unique items)
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S24	18875	S23/DE,TI
S25	406	S24 AND S17
S26	50	S25 AND S2
S27	38	RD (unique items)
S28	215902	S3/DE,TI
S29	1942	S14 AND S28
S30	266	S29 AND S4
S31	0	S20 AND S17
S32	11	S30 AND S17
S33	0	S15 AND STENCIL?
S34	1734	S1 AND STENCIL?
S35	15	S34 AND S2
S36	484	S34 AND S3
S37	351	S36 AND S4
S38	23	S37 AND S17
S39	16	RD (unique items)
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S41	969	TORAH?/DE,TI
S42	0	S41 AND STENCIL?
S43	99	S41 AND S10
S44	68	RD (unique items)
S45	47	S44 AND S4
S46	21	S45 AND S1
S47	279	TORAH? AND (STENCIL? OR STAMP?)
S48	236	S4 AND S47
S49	206	S48 AND S1
S50	1	S49 AND TORAH?/DE,TI
S51	47	TORAH/DE,TI AND S19

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S52        34   RD (unique items)
S53    215902   S3/DE,TI
S54     16858   S53 AND S1
S55       553   S54 AND (STAMP? OR STENCIL?)
S56       419   S55 AND S4
S57       419   S56 AND S11
S58        33   S17 AND S57
S59        24   RD (unique items)
S60        26   S45 NOT S46
S61        26   RD (unique items)
S62        21   S44 NOT S45
S63        21   RD (unique items)
S64        21   S63 NOT S61
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File   35:Dissertation Abs Online 1861-2002/Apr
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File 142:Social Sciences Abstracts 1983-2002/Mar
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File 232:App. Soc. Sci. Index & Abs. 1987-2002/Apr
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File 297:Bible(King James Version) 1769
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S2	7239	TORAH? OR SEFER? OR SIFREI? OR MEGILLAH? OR MEZZUZAH? OR M-EZUZAH? OR MEZUZOT? OR TEFILLIN?
S3	548406	JEWISH OR JUDAISM OR JUDAIC OR JUDAISTIC OR KOSHER OR SACR-ED OR HOLY OR ANCIENT? OR RELIGIOUS?
S4	799278	WRITE OR HANDWRITT? OR WRITTEN? OR WRITTING? OR SCRIBE? OR INSCRIBE? OR LETTER? OR SCRIPTURAL?
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S6	232	S5/TI,DE
S7	185	S6 AND S3
S8	99	S7 AND S4
S9	87	RD (unique items)
S10	1734998	MULTIPLE? OR MANY OR TOGETHER OR UNISON OR SIMULTANEOUS
S11	1303159	S4 OR CHARACTER?
S12	39196	S11 (3N) S10
S13	11	S12 AND S8
S14	235587	S1/DE,TI
S15	151	S14 AND S2
S16	60	S15 AND S4
S17	28048	S10(3N) (LETTER? OR CHARACTER?)
S18	2	S16 AND S17
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S22	20	RD (unique items)
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S24	19896	S23/DE,TI
S25	471	S24 AND S17
S26	57	S25 AND S2
S27	48	RD (unique items)
S28	187506	S3/DE,TI
S29	2498	S14 AND S28
S30	324	S29 AND S4
S31	0	S20 AND S17
S32	13	S30 AND S17
S33	0	S15 AND STENCIL?
S34	1633	S1 AND STENCIL?
S35	10	S34 AND S2
S36	414	S34 AND S3
S37	299	S36 AND S4
S38	23	S37 AND S17
S39	16	RD (unique items)
S40	1048	TORAH/DE,TI
S41	1057	TORAH?/DE,TI
S42	0	S41 AND STENCIL?
S43	134	S41 AND S10
S44	109	RD (unique items)
S45	71	S44 AND S4
S46	36	S45 AND S1
S47	307	TORAH? AND (STENCIL? OR STAMP?)
S48	261	S4 AND S47
S49	229	S48 AND S1
S50	4	S49 AND TORAH?/DE,TI
S51	61	TORAH/DE,TI AND S19

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S52       48    RD (unique items)
S53   187506    S3/DE,TI
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S55      567    S54 AND (STAMP? OR STENCIL?)
S56      439    S55 AND S4
S57      439    S56 AND S11
S58       34    S17 AND S57
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S4    3148600    COMPUTER? OR SCANNER? OR SCAN OR SCANNING OR SCANNED OR IM-
                 AGE? OR IMAGING OR AUTOMAT? OR OCR OR OPTICAL?
S5     214499    WRITE? OR HANDWRITTEN? OR WRITTING OR SCRIBE? OR INSCRIBE?
                 OR LETTER? OR SCRIPTURAL? OR WRITTEN?
S6        889    S3 (5N)S3
S7         18    S1 (3N)S3
S8      22658    S5 AND S1
S9        947    S8 AND HAND
S10       259    S9 AND S1/DE,TI
S11      7780    (ULTRA()VIOLET OR ULTRAVIOLET OR HEAT) (3N) INK?
S12         2    S11 AND S10
S13        89    S10 AND (SILK()SCREEN? OR SILKSCREEN? OR SCREEN(5N)INK? OR
                 PRINT?)
S14        51    S13 AND S4
S15        93    S1 AND S3
S16         0    S15 AND S13
S17         0    S15 AND S11
S18         2    S15 AND INK?
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S3       13857    SIRTUT? OR (ETCH? OR ENGRAV? OR SCORING OR SCORE? OR GRID?)
                  (3N) LINE?
S4    10532297    COMPUTER? OR SCANNED OR SCANNER? OR SCANNING OR SCAN OR OCR
                  OR OPTICAL
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S6         345    S3 (5N)S4
S7           0    S5 AND S6
S8         402    S5 AND S4
S9       15484    SILK()SCREEN? OR SILKSCREEN?
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S11         13    S8 AND S2/TI,DE
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S13         14    S8 AND S1/DE,TI
S14          7    S13 NOT S11
S15          6    RD (unique items)
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S3	6420364	COMPUTER? OR SCANNER? OR SCANNED? OR SCANNING? OR SCAN OR -OCR OR OPTICAL?
S4	98832	JEWISH OR JUDAISM? OR JUDAIC? OR JUDAISTIC? OR KOSHER? OR -SACRED? OR HOLY OR ANCIENT? OR RELIGIOUS?
S5	61	S1 AND S2
S6	1	S5 AND S3
S7	1117	S4 (5N) S1
S8	99	S7 AND S3
S9	82	RD (unique items)
S10	5	S9 AND HAND
S11	2	S9 AND INK????
S12	3	S9 AND LETTER????
S13	1229	SILK()SCREEN? OR SILKSCREEN? OR SCREEN(5N)INK?
S14	0	S5 AND S13
S15	0	S7 AND S13
S16	0	S9 AND S13
S17	0	S13 AND S2
S18	417	S13 AND S1
S19	1	S18 AND S4

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                  PAPER? OR SUBSTRATE? OR SHEEPSKIN?
S2         117    TORAH? OR SEFER? OR SIFREI? OR MEGILLAH? OR MEZZUZAH? OR M-
                  EZUZAH? OR MEZUZOT? OR TEFILLIN?
S3        4638    SIRTUT? OR (ETCH? OR ENGRAV? OR SCORING OR SCORE? OR GRID?)
                  (3N) LINE?
S4      401660    COMPUTER? OR SCANNED OR SCANNER? OR SCANNING OR SCAN OR OCR
                  OR OPTICAL
S5        5352    SILK()SCREEN? OR SILKSCREEN? OR SCREEN?(5N)INK?
S6         989    JEWISH OR JUDAISM? OR JUDAIC? OR JUDAISTIC? OR KOSHER? OR -
                  SACRED OR HOLY
S7          12    S1(5N)S6
S8           0    S2 (5N)S6
S9          56    S1 AND S2
S10          1    S9 AND S3
S11         19    S9 AND S4
S12       2141    S1 AND S4 AND S5
S13          0    S12 AND S6
S14      30362    S1/DE,TI
S15       6849    S14 AND S4
S16       1336    S15 AND INK?
S17        664    S16 AND HAND?
S18        600    S17 AND HAND
S19         43    S18 AND S5
? show files
File 348:EUROPEAN PATENTS 1978-2002/APR W04
        (c) 2002 European Patent Office
File 349:PCT FULLTEXT 1983-2002/UB:20020425,UT=20020418
        (c) 2002 WIPO/Univentio
?
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Stic EIC-2800   Anne Hendrickson   605-1726

ABSTRACT: The Hebrew characters used in **Torah** scrolls make it
impossible to use a word processor and spelling checker for proofreading.
Mishmeret Stam of Bnai Brak checks for errors by using an **optical**
character reader to **scan** photocopies of the scrolls.

TEXT:
     Computers are helping to crack the world's longest-running
proofreading problem. One of the oldest texts in continuous use is the book
Jews call the **Torah** (or Pentateuch), which consists of the first five
books of the Bible. The **Torah** is **written** out in Hebrew on a
large scroll that's read in the synagogue on every Sabbath. This scroll,
which according to traditional Jewish belief contains the word of God as it
was given to Moses on Mount Sinai, is the most precious and often the
single most expensive possession of a Jewish congregation.
     There are exactly 304,805 Hebrew characters in a **Torah** scroll,
and ideally, all of them have to be perfect for the scroll to be considered
fit for use in worship. To use a defective scroll would be an insult to the
Almighty. But making a perfect **Torah** is no trivial task--you can't
just type one out on a word processor and use a spelling checker. According
to Jewish law, the scroll must be **inscribed** by hand with a quill pen
and special vegetable-based ink on parchment made from the skin of a kosher
animal, such as a sheep or a goat. Highly trained **Torah scribes**
and proofreaders, who take up to a year to complete one scroll, follow
strict rules laid down in the twelfth century by the sage Maimonides. Great
pains are taken to avoid mistakes and to correct any that are found before
the scroll is delivered. Inevitably, however, some errors creep through. In
fact, it has been estimated that up to 85 percent of the scrolls
written since World War II (when thousands of accurate scrolls were
destroyed by the Nazis) contain mistakes.
     The problem of imperfect **Torah** scrolls is an interesting
example of how difficult it is to transmit exact information using analog
means--in this case, looking at words and copying them by hand. (The word
analog itself comes from the Greek roots ana- and -logos, meaning
"according to the word.") Just one repetition is all it takes to corrupt
analog information, as anyone who has ever been the victim of gossip can
attest. Only with great effort has it been possible to transmit the text of
the **Torah** essentially unchanged over the 2 1/2 millenniums since its
codification. Now a company in Israel is applying digital technology to
increase the accuracy of **Torah** scrolls. Mishmeret Stam of Bnai Brak
(offices in Jerusalem, France, and New York, among other places) uses an
optical character reader (**OCR**) to **scan** photocopies of
Torah scrolls for errors. The software to proofread the **Torah**
text is lengthy and complex, since it's far more difficult for an **OCR**
program to recognize **handwritten** characters than printed ones, which
are much more uniform. Once a particular scroll has been **scanned,**

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it's compared with a **computer** copy of the text of the **Torah**
which has been checked and rechecked for accuracy. A list of errors is then
returned to the scroll's owner, who can arrange for a **scribe** to make
repairs to the original. The **computer** doesn't guarantee a perfect
Torah--the **OCR scanner** may not be able to recognize
certain subtle mistakes--but **Torah** scrolls checked by **computer**
are so much more accurate overall that most contracts for new scrolls
require that they be checked by **optical scanner** before the
scribe is paid.

     A proper **Torah** can never be generated by a PC, but study of the
Torah and the Bible can certainly be enhanced by **computer**.
PC-based Bible-study tools are offered by several different software
publishers, each with its own slant on this vast subject. Parsons
Technology (One Parsons Drive, Hiawatha, Iowa 52233; 800-223-6925) offers
the most comprehensive selection, including Hebrew Tools, which contains a
Hebrew lexicon database, a set of flashcards, and a Hebrew word processor
for those studying Hebrew scriptures in the original language. There's also
Greek-Tools, for those who want to master enough Biblical Greek to check
out the New Testament in its original language. Parsons also publishes
several on-disk English Bible translations--the King James and the New
International, for example--for use with its Quick-Verse 2.0 searching,
indexing, and annotation program.

     These programs, with their instant access and a wealth of approaches,
make Bible study and scholarship easier than ever before.

     COPYRIGHT 1992 Compute Publications International Ltd.

 DESCRIPTORS: **Torah scrolls**--Editing; **Optical** character
  readers--Usage; Proofreading--Automation
 FILE SEGMENT: AI File 88
?

? t s12/9/1,3,4,5,6

12/9/1   (Item 1 from file: 16)
DIALOG(R)File 16:Gale Group PROMT(R)
(c) 2002 The Gale Group. All rts. reserv.

01602114   Supplier Number: 41972665   (THIS IS THE FULLTEXT)
COMPUTERS USED TO VERIFY **TORAHS:**
Technical Computing, v6, n5, pN/A
April, 1991
ISSN: 0891-303X
Language: English   Record Type: Fulltext
Document Type: Magazine/Journal; Trade
Word Count: 276
TEXT:
A hand written **Torah** (sheepskin and quill pen), the first five books
of the bible, is used in every synagogue for reading to the congregation.
According to Jewish tradition the **Torah** should be perfect, with
304,805 correctly formed characters, no more and no less. It has about 250
columns, depending on the scribe. The traditional process of writing
continues, with a trained scribe taking from 12 to 18 months to complete a
Torah. According to tradition three proof readers are required to
verify the manuscript. After this process it is delivered to the
congregation. If an error is discovered later, the **scroll** must be
corrected before it can be used.
     Rabbi David Greenfeld of Vaad Mishmereth Stam says about 90% of the
newly produced **Torahs** still have errors in them. According to the
Rabbi, proof readers are now paid by the job and not by the error, leading
to an unfortunate lack of attention to the task. For $750 the Rabbi's
company, which has offices in Brooklyn, Jerusalem and Strasbourg, will
scan the **Torah** electronically, and compare it, page by page
with a **scan** of a standard copy stored on disk in a personal
computer.
     The software detects errors and records them. It flags suspicious
deviations from its standard copy, which might be errors. In about two
hours a Laser Jet begins printing the report. The **scan** is saved, so
that traffic in stolen **Torahs** can be suppressed. The **scan** is
said to identify the individual **Torah** beyond reasonable doubt.
According to Rabbi Greenfield, orthodox rabbis were originally skeptical,
but after the system found errors in **scrolls** in use for decades, they
became "true believers."
     COPYRIGHT 1991 STICS, Inc.
     COPYRIGHT 1999 Gale Group
PUBLISHER NAME: STICS, Inc.
COMPANY NAMES: *Vaad Mishmereth Stam
EVENT NAMES: *360 (Services information)
GEOGRAPHIC NAMES: *1USA (United States)
PRODUCT NAMES: 7374382   **(Scanning** Services)
INDUSTRY NAMES: BUSN (Any type of business); CMPT   **(Computers** and
   Office Automation)
NAICS CODES: 51421   (Data Processing Services)
SPECIAL FEATURES: COMPANY

12/9/3   (Item 2 from file: 47)
DIALOG(R)File 47:Gale Group Magazine DB(TM)
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03956922   SUPPLIER NUMBER: 14400632   (THIS IS THE FULL TEXT)

Five scripture titles offer spiritual well-being. (versions of Bible and
   Torah on CD-ROM) (Software Review) (After Hours) (Evaluation)
Olsen, J.W.
PC Magazine, v12, n17, p496(4)
Oct 12, 1993
DOCUMENT TYPE: Evaluation   ISSN: 0888-8507   LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
RECORD TYPE: FULLTEXT; ABSTRACT
WORD COUNT: 2817   LINE COUNT: 00221

ABSTRACT: Three electronic versions of the bible and two of Judaic
classics are examined. Logos Research Systems Inc's Logos Bible Software
1.6 is available in three editions: the $129 basic package of the King
James Version; the $129 Dual Catholic Version, with New American and New
Jerusalem Bibles; and the $159 Dual Version with the King James version and
one of five others. All are for Microsoft Windows. Parsons Technology
offers the $69 QuickVerse 2.0 for DOS. A broad range of add-ins is
available for both the Parsons and Logos products. Most comprehensive of
the Bible versions is Ellis Enterprises Inc's $495 New Bible Library, a DOS
product which offers 16 Bible versions and one apocrypha on CD-ROM. Davka
Corp's $269 CD ROM Judaic Classics Library, Second Edition requires a good
knowledge of Hebrew as even the menus and on-line help are not provided in
English. **Torah** Educational Software Inc's $219 **Torah** Scholar
Plus Rashi 1.0n is a more family-oriented product.

TEXT:
        Logos Bible Software 1.6 Dual Version, $159. Requires: 2MB RAM,
Windows 3.x, 20MB hard disk space. Logos Research Systems Inc., 2117 200th
Ave. West, Oak Harbor, WA 98277; 800-875-6467, 206-679-6575; fax,
206-675-8169.
        Circle 446 on reader service card
        QuickVerse, Version 2.0, $69. Requires: 512K RAM, DOS 2.11, 3MB hard
disk space per translation. Parsons Technology, One Parsons Dr., Hiawatha,
IA 52233-0100; 800-223-6925, 310-395-9626; fax, 319-395-0217.
        Circle 447 on reader service card
        The New Bible Library, $495. Requires: 640K RAM, DOS 5.0, 1MB hard
disk space, CD-ROM drive. Ellis Enterprises Inc., 4205 McAuley Blvd., #385,
Oklahoma City, OK 73120; 800-729-9500, 405-749-0273; fax, 405-751-5168.
        Circle 448 on reader service card
        The CD-ROM Judaic Classics Library, Second Edition, $269. Requires:
640K RAM, DOS 3.3 or later, 2MB hard disk space, CD-ROM drive. Davka Corp.,
7074 N. Western Ave., Chicago, IL 60645; 800-621-8227, 312-465-4070; fax,
312-262-9298.
        Circle 449 on reader service card
        Torah Scholar Plus Rashi, Version 1.0n, $219. Requires: 640K
RAM, DOS 3.0 or later, 4MB hard disk space. **Torah** Educational
Software Inc., 230 East Rte. 59, Nanuet, NY 10954; 800-925-6853,
914-624-4515; fax, 914-425-1042.
        Circle 450 on reader service card
        Not long ago, studying Scripture meant possessing a printed copy of
the Bible or equivalent writings for your faith.Comparing translations
required you to buy multiple versions. Concordances, topical and word
studies, commentaries, maps, and other research and historical works meant
additional purchases, and scholars of the Christian tradition stocked their
bookshelves with original Greek and Hebrew texts, too.
        No more! Bible study has been made easier with a variety of
easy-to-manage, easy-to-navigate software products--including one to suit
almost anyone's needs and resources. In this roundup, we evaluate three
titles in the Christian tradition (Protestant and Catholic) and two in the
Judaic tradition.

Stic EIC-2800   Anne Hendrickson   605-1726

One of the best features of a **computer**-based Bible is the ability to search and make comparative studies. No longer do you need scribble notes in margins or try to coordinate reams of **paper** with corresponding references. The Bibles we review here make these undertakings easier, less space-intensive, and less expensive than ever.

Whether you prefer the DOS or Microsoft Windows environment and whether or not your system includes a CD-ROM drive, a hard disk, or only floppy drives, we offer something for you. Each provides more reference material than you are likely to own now. Even if you own a thorough religious library, you will find a product here to enhance the speed, convenience, and effectiveness of your studies.

Logos Bible Software 1.6 Dual Version

Logos Bible Software is the product against which other Christian software titles have been judged. Because of the exceptional ease with which features can be accessed through Logos's Windows interface, it remains a top contender for the serious student of the Scriptures.

The latest version is available in three basic releases, each of which readily accepts Logos Research Systems' add-in modules. Logos Bible Software 1.6 ($129) ships with the King James Version of the Bible (minus the Apocrypha), Strong's numbering (a leading referencing system), an enhanced dictionary that expands on those references, and The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge, which features more than 500,000 cross-references. Logos Bible Software 1.6 Dual Version, provided for this review, includes all of the above plus the New International Version--or any one of four alternative biblical versions. The third release, Logos Bible Software 1.6 Dual Catholic Version ($129), offers the complete New American and New Jerusalem Bibles.

LAYERED COMPLEXITY

The Windows interface encourages effortless, serious exploration of biblical nuances: The printed manual isn't essential to jump into your studies. Logos calls this approach "layered complexity." New users may immediately use the product much as they would a printed book and gradually learn to use its additional features.

From one pull-down menu, for example, experienced users might turn on Strong's numbering system, pop up translator notes and user-created notes for the current passage, and display cross-references or associated references in The Treasury of Scripture Knowledge at the same time.

Searching is quick and thorough, in large part because the index is highly optimized and a hefty 20MB is installed directly on the hard disk. (That requirement may be a serious purchasing consideration.)

Logos Bible Software takes advantage of Windows' Dynamic Data Exchange, allowing you to import a range of verses into a Windows word processor, desktop publishing program, or database.

EASY ADD-INS

This package offers a vast assortment of add-in modules, which integrate easily into the above releases. There are seven alternative English, four Greek, and two Hebrew Bibles. Each features scalable fonts for the respective language.

Other add-ins include the well-known Nave's Topical Bible, historical works and commentaries, and biblical grammar tools. The last module is a noteworthy asset compared with what competitors offer. Spanish, Dutch, and French modules are available, too. Add-ins range from $15 to $119 and require one of the three basic releases.

Logos Bible Software 1.6 deserves serious consideration if you can afford to dedicate the necessary hard disk space and want speedy, powerful search capabilities.

QuickVerse

Befitting the customary focus of its product portfolio, Parsons Technology aims QuickVerse at the mass market while maintaining a high

level of value for moderately serious students of Christianity.

QuickVerse comes in both a DOS version (Version 2.0, $69) and a Windows version (Version 1.0, $79) and ships with one of six translations of the Protestant Bible. The DOS package sent to us provides more capabilities than the casual user is likely to use, yet demands modest system resources—just 512K RAM and 3MB of hard disk space.

As with most DOS-based products, the initial learning curve is a bit steeper than for Windows alternatives. But getting up to speed isn't all that challenging, especially with a mouse installed.

For instance, to keep the program fairly easy to use, Parsons chose to limit some of the product's search options--but that's typically one of the greatest assets of Scripture software. This simplicity may be a virtue, but serious scholars will find it limiting.

To its credit, the search engine does feature some handy touches; for example, you can **scan** within or across indices. The package also displays up and down icons after an initial search. Clicking on one moves to the preceding or subsequent occurrence of the search term without making you invoke a menu or dialog box.

You may also tag notes to specific words or verses, generate multiple footnote files, cut and paste between them, and automatically display or print them.

Version 2.0 adds user-defined topical indices and lets users view multiple translations and original meanings in Hebrew (Old Testament) or Greek (New Testament) simultaneously, if you have purchased those add-ins.

There is one small glitch, however. Several items that require add-ins appear on the menu, and invoke error messages when those modules are not present. While Logos Bible Software graciously grays out such menu items, Parsons' approach leads to frustration until you learn which features you can access.

Like Logos, Parsons offers many related add-in modules. These include Bible Illustrator, PC Bible Atlas, GreekTools, HebrewTools, Nave's Topical Bible, a Hebrew & Greek Transliterated Bible, and six separate versions of the Protestant Bible: King James, New King James, New International, Revised Standard, New Revised Standard, and Living Bible. Each add-in sells for $39 to $69.

With its straightforward presentation and choice of options, QuickVerse will be welcome in the home of any Protestant family.

The New Bible Library

If you have a CD-ROM drive and $495 to spare, The New Bible Library, from Ellis Enterprises, offers more material than any disk-based product, with unique advantages to Protestant and Catholic users.

In a single, well-coordinated and ready-to-go package, you receive a mind-boggling 16 versions of the Bible (one with Apocrypha), seven word studies (including the prominent Strong's Hebrew and Greek dictionaries), four commentaries, three sets of cross-references, four reference and historical works, eight topical studies (including Nave's Topical Bible, five sets of sermon outlines containing 500 texts each, and 101 hymn stories), and 12 maps with companion texts. The five sermon outline modules cover almost any audience: Basic Bible Truths, Children's Sermons, On The Christian Life, Evangelistic Sermons, and Gospel Sermons.

Though DOS-based, the front-end system (IBM's Navigator) has a remarkably Windows-like feel, and installation demands less than 1MB of hard disk space.

The CD-ROM format offers advantages and disadvantages. Its strengths are the ease of installation, the amount and diversity of information, and the frugal hard disk requirement. The weakness, at least for those who plan to use this product extensively, is the relative sluggishness with which text is retrieved.

The speed of text retrieval is a complaint that can't be lodged

against the publisher; improvement must await now-emerging advances in CD-ROM technology. Double-speed CD-ROM drives, for instance, offer a notable edge.

Nonetheless, before getting used to the product, I wondered if I had failed to invoke a search properly before an item eventually appeared. The number of matches found in searches--sometimes only one-quarter as many as in Logos or QuickVerse--was disappointing.

MOST REFERENCE MATERIAL

The sheer volume of material in The New Bible Library also presents advantages and disadvantages. The fact that it offers the most reference material is a clear advantage for many users. But wading through this material--even with the commendably inviting and intuitive front-end software--is a challenge the user must learn to address in order to take full advantage of the data.

A more thorough and somewhat easier-to-use search facility would be a welcome enhancement, and would place The New Bible Library far ahead of its competitors.

On balance, The New Bible Library is a wise investment if you demand comprehensive reference material without reserving a large amount of hard disk space, and if you can be patient during searches.

The CD ROM Judaic Classics Library, Second Edition

The content of Davka's CD-ROM Judaic Classics Library is to Judaica what Logos Bible Software is to Christianity. In an informal survey, Davka's product was consistently identified as the title against which its competitors are judged.

Further, it is held in high esteem by the Orthodox Jewish community, and is the product of choice for serious Christian scholars studying original texts. Note, however, that you must be well-versed in Hebrew in order to use this product, as English menus and on-line help are unavailable.

This ambitious CD-ROM provides browsing, searching, and viewing of Tanach, Babylonian Talmud, Aggadic Midrashim, Mishneh **Torah**, Rashi on Chumash and Talmud, Zohar, Talmud Yerushalmi, four **Torah** commentaries, and more--a commendably thorough set of writings. You may save selected material to a file or print it, but this DOS product leaves you to your own resources--including a Hebrew-aware word processor and Hebrew fonts--to work with the character set. (Our informal survey suggested that most potential users of this product already have these capabilities.)

POWERFUL SEARCHING

Searching is fast and powerful. You may turn off suffixes and prefixes, specify up to eight simultaneous search terms, use basic Boolean operators, and set a permissible number of words between multiple search terms.

The extensive source material and substantial search capabilities justify the $269 cost, but we have some significant objections to some of the program's features: namely, a copy-protection dongle (a hardware device that thankfully went out of vogue years ago) and some important changes made to your hard disk's root directory upon installation that are not mentioned in the manual.

Most notably, the installation program adds a line to your AUTOEXEC.BAT file, which in turn loads a 5K TSR into memory, then returns your system to the DOS prompt. The undocumented TSR, which substitutes Hebrew characters for some upper-ASCII codes, does not announce itself when run.

This little change causes problems if your AUTOEXEC.BAT invokes Windows or a shell without returning control to the DOS command line. Under such circumstances the TSR is not loaded, and later attempts to execute Judaic Classics Library result in screens displaying neither English nor

Hebrew but upper ASCII. On the other hand, if the TSR does load, it can conflict with apps that need access to the upper-ASCII characters.

Further, the TSR presumes 25-line video mode--not a safe assumption. In 50-line VGA mode, only half of the lines of DOS displays are visible. The manual is also silent about removing the TSR.

Finally, the user interface is weak by contemporary stanards, and no . Windows version is available.

Despite some of its annoyances, The CD ROM Judaic Classics Library is worth serious consideration by the scholar who demands maximum access to Judaic **documents** and for whom raw reference material is the overriding factor. For even more text, a third edition recently became available. The $549 CD-ROM contains all of the text found in the second edition, plus additional codes of Jewish law and more Halachic writings.

TORAH EDUCATIONAL SOFTWARE INC.

Torah Scholar Plus Rashi 1.0n

Torah Scholar Plus Rashi targets Jewish families with some knowledge of Hebrew, and is available as a variety of stand-alone products. **Torah** Scholar provides the Chumash (the first five books of the Old Testament) in both English and Hebrew for $179. **Torah** Scholar Plus Rashi ($219), sent to us for review, includes the Chumash with hypertext links to the Rashi commentary. Currently, Rashi is in Hebrew, but an upgrade will soon add the English translation.

Additional products include Bible Scholar Hebrew, which adds the rest of the Tanach (the vast body of work related to the Old Testament), and Bible Scholar English, which features an English rather than Hebrew concordance and is intended to reach the Christian market as well. Because all titles in this product line are hard disk-based, they predictably encompass less reference material than Judaic Classics Library. But for many users, this coverage may suffice.

Some time is needed to become comfortable with the DOS-based program's interface, and a Microsoft-compatible mouse is a necessity. The pull-down menus and general methodology in accessing features operate in mildly unexpected ways, but most users will find them adequate if they can live with the black-on-white display.

We found the modest search and display features rather slow for a hard disk-based product. On the positive side, however, it is possible to perform searches in English or Hebrew. To make the Hebrew searches easier, the program pops up a graphical display to remind you which key corresponds to a particular Hebrew character. In addition, this package (like the Judaic Classics Library) comes with stick-on labels for your keyboard. Unlike the more expensive Davka product, **Torah** Scholar prints text and graphics on most popular printers. Devices that emulate Epson dot matrix, LaserJet, DeskJet, and PostScript printers are accommodated.

We were pleased to find that **Torah** Scholar does not require a TSR or other special steps to run. Simply execute the main program for automatic access to all display and printing services. Exit **Torah** Scholar and your system immediately returns to its original state.

Like Judaic Classics Library, **Torah** Scholar employs copy protection: in this instance a software lock, which will prevent most users from running the program on more than one machine at a time. In order to install the program on a second machine (or reinstall it on the first), you must first execute an uninstall program found on the program's installation disk. Failure to do so renders the product useless.

The publisher might build goodwill by abandoning the copy protection. Still, we can recommend **Torah** Scholar to Jewish users who seek to move beyond printed Scriptures to the advantages offered by the products in this roundup.

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COMPANY NAMES: Logos Research Systems Inc.--Products; Parsons Technology
  Inc.--Products; Ellis Enterprises Inc.--Products; Davka Corp.--Products;
  Torah Educational Software Inc.--Products
DESCRIPTORS: Bible--**Computer** programs; Data bases--Evaluation;
  Jewish literature--**Computer** programs; **Torah scrolls**--
  Computer programs
SIC CODES: 7372 Prepackaged software; 5734 Computer and software stores
TRADE NAMES: Logos Bible Software 1.6 Dual Version (Electronic book)--
  evaluation; QuickVerse 2.0 (Electronic book)--evaluation; The New Bible
  Library (Electronic book)--evaluation; The CD ROM Judaic Classics
  Library, Second Edition (Electronic book)--evaluation; **Torah**
  Scholar Plus Rashi 1.0n (Electronic book)--evaluation; Logos Bible
  Software 1.6 (Electronic book)--evaluation; Logos Bible Software 1.6 Dual
  Catholic Version (Electronic book)--evaluation
FILE SEGMENT: CD File 275

12/9/4   (Item 3 from file: 47)
DIALOG(R)File 47:Gale Group Magazine DB(TM)
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03709545   SUPPLIER NUMBER: 12128631   (THIS IS THE FULL TEXT)
Scanning the word of the Lord. (using a **computer** to proofread
  Torah scrolls) (Column)
Anzovin, Steven
Compute, v14, n4, p82(1)
May, 1992
DOCUMENT TYPE: Column   ISSN: 0194-357X   LANGUAGE: ENGLISH
RECORD TYPE: FULLTEXT; ABSTRACT
WORD COUNT: 758   LINE COUNT: 00056

ABSTRACT: The Hebrew characters used in **Torah scrolls** make it
impossible to use a word processor and spelling checker for proofreading.
Mishmeret Stam of Bnai Brak checks for errors by using an **optical**
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TEXT:
     Computers are helping to crack the world's longest-running
proofreading problem. One of the oldest texts in continuous use is the book
Jews call the **Torah** (or Pentateuch), which consists of the first five
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scroll, which according to traditional Jewish belief contains the
word of God as it was given to Moses on Mount Sinai, is the most precious
and often the single most expensive possession of a Jewish congregation.
     There are exactly 304,805 Hebrew characters in a **Torah**
scroll, and ideally, all of them have to be perfect for the
scroll to be considered fit for use in worship. To use a defective
scroll would be an insult to the Almighty. But making a perfect
Torah is no trivial task--you can't just type one out on a word
processor and use a spelling checker. According to Jewish law, the
scroll must be inscribed by hand with a quill pen and special
vegetable-based ink on **parchment** made from the **skin** of a kosher
animal, such as a sheep or a goat. Highly trained **Torah** scribes and
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through. In fact, it has been estimated that up to 85 percent of the

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scrolls written since World War II (when thousands of accurate
scrolls were destroyed by the Nazis) contain mistakes.

The problem of imperfect **Torah scrolls** is an interesting
example of how difficult it is to transmit exact information using analog
means—in this case, looking at words and copying them by hand. (The word
analog itself comes from the Greek roots ana- and -logos, meaning
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attest. Only with great effort has it been possible to transmit the text of
the **Torah** essentially unchanged over the 2 1/2 millenniums since its
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Brak (offices in Jerusalem, France, and New York, among other places) uses
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scribe to make repairs to the original. The **computer** doesn't
guarantee a perfect **Torah**—the **OCR scanner** may not be
able to recognize certain subtle mistakes—but **Torah scrolls**
checked by **computer** are so much more accurate overall that most
contracts for new **scrolls** require that they be checked by
optical scanner before the scribe is paid.

A proper **Torah** can never be generated by a PC, but study of the
Torah and the Bible can certainly be enhanced by **computer.**
PC-based Bible-study tools are offered by several different software
publishers, each with its own slant on this vast subject. Parsons
Technology (One Parsons Drive, Hiawatha, Iowa 52233; 800-223-6925) offers
the most comprehensive selection, including Hebrew Tools, which contains a
Hebrew lexicon database, a set of flashcards, and a Hebrew word processor
for those studying Hebrew scriptures in the original language. There's also
Greek-Tools, for those who want to master enough Biblical Greek to check
out the New Testament in its original language. Parsons also publishes
several on-disk English Bible translations—the King James and the New
International, for example—for use with its Quick-Verse 2.0 searching,
indexing, and annotation program.

These programs, with their instant access and a wealth of approaches,
make Bible study and scholarship easier than ever before.

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DESCRIPTORS: **Torah scrolls**—Editing; **Optical** character
 readers—Usage; Proofreading—Automation
FILE SEGMENT: AI File 88

12/9/5   (Item 1 from file: 141)
DIALOG(R)File 141:Readers Guide
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02280804   H.W. WILSON RECORD NUMBER: BRGA92030804
Scanning the Word of the Lord.
Anzovin, Steven, 1954-
Compute v. 14 (May 1992) p. 82
DOCUMENT TYPE: Feature Article
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Stic EIC-2800   Anne Hendrickson   605-1726

ABSTRACT: Jewish law requires that the **Torah** be inscribed by hand,
so the number of errors in a **scroll** can be high, even when checked by
human proofreaders. As a result, Mishmeret Stam of Bnai Brak is using
computer optical character reading technology to proofread
scrolls of the **Torah** as they are made. Errors that are
discovered are reported to the owner, who can have them corrected properly.
PC-based Bible study tools by Parsons Technology are discussed.

DESCRIPTORS:
Torah scrolls
Bible--Software

 12/9/6   (Item 1 from file: 148)
DIALOG(R)File 148:Gale Group Trade & Industry DB
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ABSTRACT: Vaad Mishmereth Stam, a service with offices in Jerusalem,
Brooklyn and Strasbourg, France, uses **computers** to proofread Hebrew
Torah scrolls used in Jewish prayer services. Any **scroll**
with an incorrect or missing letter, extra letter, missing word or extra
word must be set aside, but today's scribes tend to fall short of the
performance of ancient calligraphers despite years of training. Vaad
Mishmereth photocopies each **Torah** to be checked and scans the copy
into **computer** memory page by page. The **computer** checks it
against a 'perfect' **Torah** stored in memory. It uses such algorithms
as 'stroke analysis' found in pen-based systems; a bell sounds when an
error is detected or uncertainties exist that may have been induced by
discoloring of the original **parchment**. The complete photocopy and
printout indicating errors are returned to the owner. Photocopies also
provide positive identification and discourage theft.

 INDUSTRY CODES/NAMES: CMPT   **Computers** and Office Automation
 DESCRIPTORS: Hebrew literature--Publishing; **Computer** graphics--
   Religious aspects; Proofreading--Automation; Rabbinical literature--
   Publishing; **Torah scrolls**--Publishing
 FILE SEGMENT: CD File 275
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